

9. M.D.  
Victoria B.C.

Feb. 6. 1876.

Dear Father,

I have just-written to  
William addressing 86. Boulevard de  
Bon-Puyal, which is I suppose still his  
address. There is nothing new to report  
here save a slight-improvement in  
the weather, which is now warm &  
moderately fine, though the hills in  
the neighbourhood are still pretty well  
covered with snow. I am trying  
to get-a short report of my Scummers  
work written, & when once fairly  
through I hope to be able to spend a  
little time on the rocks & the  
neighbourhood, which promise to be  
interesting, though they looked very hopeless  
at first. About-Victoria nothing

(2)

is seen but - hard bopelus-looking  
highly crystalline diorites, standing up in  
clumps & knobs in all directions. At first  
- then perhaps we a good deal, but - I  
of opinion as discovered that the line of application  
& fracture was exceptionally just - just here,  
& that at a little distance the arrangement  
is better shown. There are also bands of  
blackish clay - slates interbedded with  
hard felsites, gneissites & sometimes  
micaceous. As I wrote to Mr Selwyn  
Some time since I am now convinced  
that the whole or nearly all the crystalline  
rocks are contemporaneous volcanic  
productions, some of them being lava  
flows, but others are distinctly  
andes & breccias. The cumulates previously  
described by Mr Richardson occur  
apparently generally among the gneissites,  
diorites, I have not seen much of them  
yet

(3)

I do not know if I told you before that I had been the owner of loosey your pocket-level last summer. I lent it to one of the C.R.R.S. men who had broken his arm, & he dropped it - on a mountain & could not afterwards find it. I recovered the price, however from the Ry. Survey, so please order another for your own use, & charge it to my account.

I don't know if you have paid any attention to the Indian Question here. It has been attracting ~~some~~ <sup>not so</sup> much attention for some time, but now seems finally settled on a pretty satisfactory basis. The Dominion Govt. wanted to carry out in this Province a policy precisely similar to that pursued in Ontario & give the Indians all ~~large~~ liberal reserves of agricultural land & bring them together & settling them in certain given localities. The Local Govt. would not allocate such large tracts as those required, & besides maintained that in proposing such a plan the Dominion Govt. did not understand the nature of the frontier, which was true. Appropriately large reserves to Indians so numerous as there here would practically block up many scattered areas of good land ~~capable~~ capable of settlement, & in some regions would take all the good land. Then along the coast the Indians are fishermen, & might do well if encouraged in this industry, but would not farm, & might not like to be carried from barren coast where they could get good fishing to fertile land where they could get none. Some of the Catholic Priests showed considerable interest in the Indian reserve matter, no doubt intending eventually to get the land for themselves. The basis of settlement provides small reserves for Indians requiring them, & provides that the reserve shall be increased or diminished to suit the varying number of the tribe from time to time.

(4)

The Chinese New-year occurred lately & was the occasion of much Clerical excitement. They visit each other, give & receive presents, & keep open house, like any Christians, but - bunches indulge in fire-Crackers to keep up their spirits, or keep spirits away. For two days they kept up a perpetual rattle almost-day & night. The Chinamen are very useful here doing all manner of things which white men would not do. They preserve their customs, & have lately got-up a Joss House on a small scale. There are <sup>some</sup> ~~about~~ 1000 Chinamen in this town making about one-fifth of the population. \$32000 worth of Opium paid duty last-year for use in the Province

Which would seem to imply  
that it takes something to <sup>reconcile</sup> ~~convince~~  
them to living here.

Feb. 7.

My usual luck! Harry praised  
the good weather it has gone. Since

early morning we have been experiencing  
a heavy storm of wind & soft wet snow,  
& now several inches of bluish on the  
ground, & no sign yet of mail steamer  
from the Sound, which I hoped might  
bring some letters, or which I might at  
least have acknowledged.

Your affectionate son

George